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el Don

INSIDE:

Musician, singer
and songwriter,
Santa Ana College
student Erwin
Rocha is following
his dreams.

Profile, Page 2



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Friday, May 8, 1998

Stressed Out

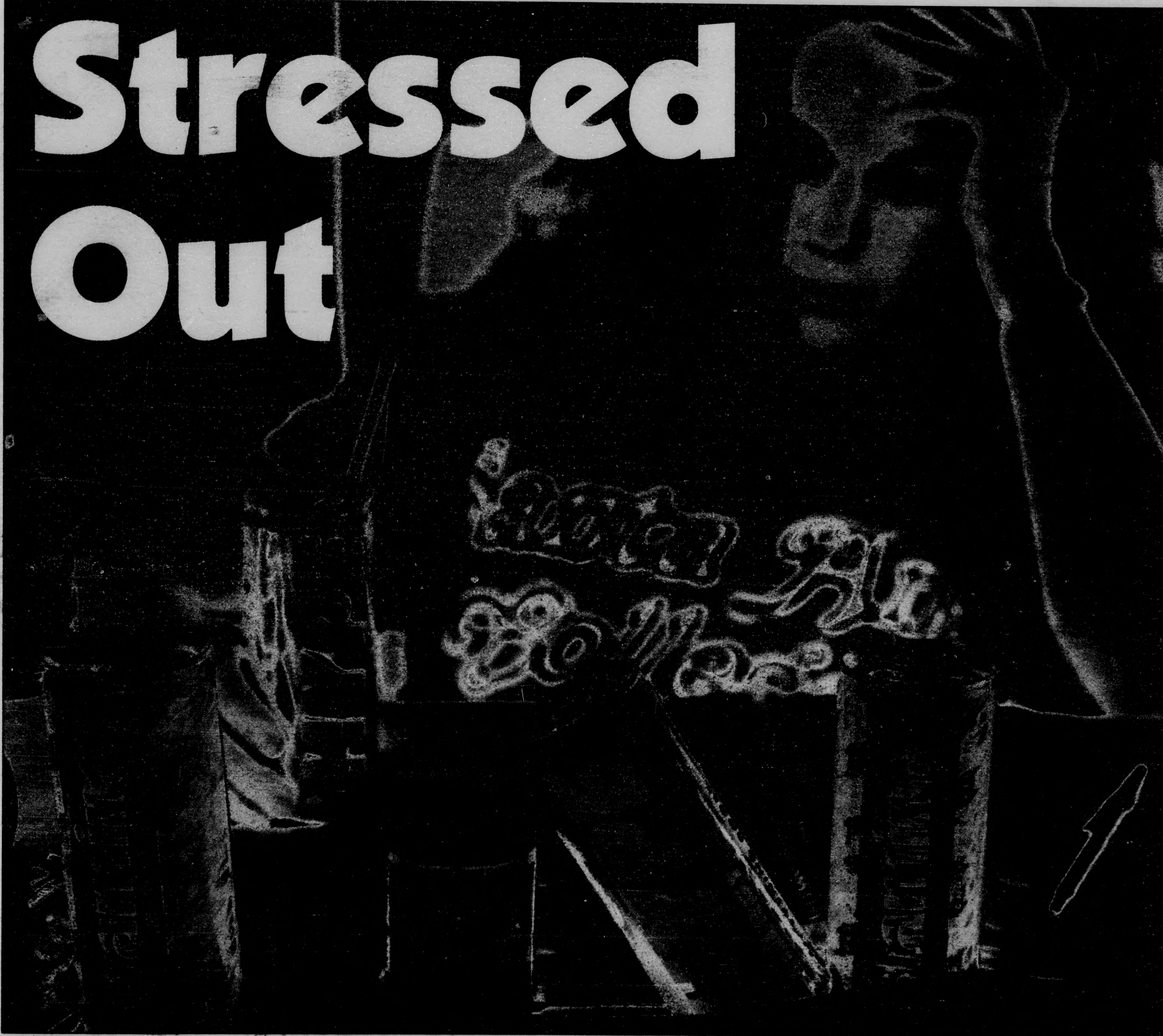


Photo Illustration by Christina Georges

Are we able to juggle jobs, bills, finals and the future?

CAMPUS: Despite the fast-paced lives of students, most need to learn to slow down.

By Stacy Bush
el Don Editor in Chief

Monica Dunning sees a counselor once a week to unload.

A Santa Ana College sophomore preparing to transfer, Dunning has a lot on her mind.

Financial responsibilities, finals, family and everything else

in between.

And like many students, Dunning feels the most stressed out just before summer vacation.

"I feel like everything needs to be done right now, especially since I am going to transfer next spring," she said.

"I have seen a SAC counselor for over a year and it has helped me a lot," Dunning said.

After going full speed ahead all semester, it's difficult for students to slow down, but too much stress can prevent students from

thinking clearly and cause health problems.

For today's students, stressors are different and the social status has changed, according to Dr. Joyce Earl, director of SAC's Crisis Intervention Team.

"There are a lot of things students deal with now that didn't exist in the 1950s," she said,

"and there is more stimulation. . . . computers, voice mail and technology in general has created a different society."

Please see **HEALTH**, Page 5

Learning to cope

UP CLOSE: As the semester comes to an end, students deal with stress and what lies ahead..

By Veronica Peterson
el Don Feature Editor

It's that time again. Time for the latest generation to flip their tassels, solidifying

their entrance into the world of college graduates. For many, the road toward graduation isn't all caps and gowns. Anxiety plagued students hit the library and down coffee hoping to conquer the last obstacle between them and the big bucks.

Please see **STRESS**, Page 5

PROFILE MUSIC MAN

Multi-talented musician and SAC student Erwin Rocha is currently awaiting the release of his solo album.

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Staff Writer

"I have no choice, I'm simply addicted," said the 28-year-old musician, "if I wasn't making music, I think I would go crazy."

And during his lifetime, he has made plenty of it! A veteran singer, songwriter and all-around-musician, Erwin Rocha has made a career out of his love for music.

Presently he is awaiting the release of a solo album titled "El Pasajero," comprised of Latin pop tracks, that he composed. In addition to writing his own songs, Erwin is the lead vocalist and plays acoustic guitar on the album.

He has shared the stage with some of Latin music's top performers including Celia Cruz and Gloria Estefan.

An avid piano, bass and guitar player, the Miami-native has a long history in the music industry.

"I have always been interested in music," he said, "Since a young age, music has been my passion, and fortunately, my parents were always there to support me."

Erwin's introduction into the music industry began at age 5, when he received first place in a T.V. station-sponsored singing contest. After the contest, he said, his interest in music flourished and grew to incorporate vocals and instruments.

"That is still one of my problems," he said, "I want to do everything, play instruments, sing, compose-



VITAL SIGNS

Musical talents: Sings, writes songs, plays bass, guitar and piano.

Family life: Parents were supportive and encouraged his passion for music.

that sometimes I feel scattered."

He enrolled at the Conservatory of Music of Miami at 9, where he completed courses in singing, piano, and guitar. As his musical skills and confidence grew, Erwin's parents went through great lengths to further his musical exposure.

They soon contacted local studios and musicians in order to record demos, and during this time he also attended try-outs for various music groups.

At 12, he landed a position singing with the Mexican pop group, Menudo. Yet after 8 months left the group, to pursue more fulfilling personal goals.

"We were like puppets. We had to sing and dance the way they wanted us to and that is just not what I wanted to represent," he said.

Shortly after, in 1984, he was contracted by Salerno Records to record a solo project. The solo debut titled "Un Dia Hazte Volver" was a great success, and at 14 he received a gold record for this contribution to the Latin music scene.

During this time period, Erwin had also resumed his studies at the Conservatory, where he focused particularly on theory, vocals and piano.

After graduating from the



Christina Georges / el Don

One of Erwin Rocha's dreams is to compose scores for movie productions.

Conservatory, at 18, he followed his dreams to California, to become part of the Young American Show Choir.

Since his arrival, he has worked extensively with musicians and recording

studios in Los Angeles, and even relocated permanently to keep ties within the industry.

"Through out my musical career, I have met many people in the industry," he said, "This has proved helpful, as with my

record, because you have an extensive base of acquaintances to draw from."

Occasionally Erwin helps other artists by providing a voice for their ideas, or by helping to score music.

Please see ROCHA, Page 3

CAMPUS

Enjoy an evening of enchantment

A celebration and fundraiser, the first annual Chancellor's Ball is on Saturday May 16.

Hosted by the RSCCD board of trustees and Chancellor Edward Hernandez, the event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Alicante Hotel.

Proceeds will go to scholarship programs and other services in the district. Individual tickets are \$75. For more information call 564-6450.

District presents Steel Magnolias

The district's Theatre Arts Department is presenting "Steel Magnolias," which will run May 7 through 17 in the drama lab at Santiago Canyon College.

Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. May 7-9 and 14-16. Ticket prices are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for students, seniors, children under 12 and RSCCD students and staff. For more information call 564-5661.

UCs may admit top 4 percent of high school grads

The University of California is making a proposal to automatically admit the top 4 percent of high school graduates.

After anti-affirmative measures have taken effect, supporters say the proposal would help boost minority admissions.

Currently, the University of California system guarantees admission to the top 12.5 percent.

STATE

Senate finds alternative to 227

As an alternative to Proposition 227, the state senate sent bill SB6 to Gov. Pete Wilson.

This bill would allow bilingual education but allow parents to pull their children from the programs. But, if prop. 227 passes on June 2, the alternative bill would be automatically disregarded because prop. 227's provisions are pre-eminent in state law. Wilson has not yet taken a position on either bill.

Space shuttle study proves effects of gravity

Getting your children off the couch and into an exercise program may be beneficial in their muscle development according to a study conducted by a University of California Irvine researcher.

Aboard the space shuttle Columbia, 22 baby rats were used to measure the effect of gravity on muscle development.

The study showed that

NATION

gravity and exercise are important to muscle development in young animals as well as children.

After the rats arrived back to Earth, their bones were extremely fragile and shredded upon touch because the inactivity didn't allow muscle development.

Researcher Kenneth Baldwin suspects the same may be true for children who are inactive. This shows muscle growth occurs because of exercise.

Rocha: musician has a wide variety of interests

continued from page 2

Although he works full time as a manager of an auto parts store, his love for music has not been squelched. In his spare time, he works as a studio manager and does what he "loves best"- writing songs.

"My material seems to come from the soul," he said. "Some-

times I can sit down and write a song in an hour, other times it may take weeks. But my lyrics come from within."

There are three areas of composition which Rocha is specifically interested in: English rock, ballads in English or Spanish and instrumentals.

He varies his themes when

composing, careful not to let his lyrics twist into dry, romantic clichés.

"But let's face it," he said.

"Nearly 90 percent of all songs have to do with love, romance, etc. Sometimes you just have to give in."

He is currently enrolled in vocalization classes at SAC

and hopes to obtain a degree in vocalization or music theory.

His lifetime goal, however, far transcends from the walls of the classroom.

"My ultimate goal," he said, "is to be a composer for movies. Writing music and doing the scoring for movies is my dream."

What ever the future holds for Rocha, his love for music will be incorporated into every stage of his life.

"Music is so natural, so captivating, it's like a drug for me," he said. "Even if I wanted to stop singing, or playing instruments, I couldn't. To put it bluntly, I need it."

Student government elections postponed

ASG: Lack of organization and communication puts elections off until next week.

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Staff Writer

Associated Student Government elections were scheduled for last week at both Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College campuses, yet each had very different outcomes.

Elections held at SAC were ultimately canceled by ASG President Everardo Martinez after a number of factors hindered the effectiveness of the outcome.

According to ASG Vice President Luisa Ruiz, one of the factors that led to the cancellation of elections was failure to have monitors at the polling site, during publicized hours.

"A big problem we had," Ruiz said, "was

with ASG members and students-at-large, who committed themselves to be at the polling site, and then never showed up."

Another downfall, according to Ruiz, was that the polling site was opened without prior notification to the student body.

"We had a lot of confused students coming into the student activities office," she said. "People didn't know when or where to vote."

Yet another problem was with "miscommunication," Ruiz said.

Since Martinez was not given time off work to supervise the elections, the president, "wasn't really aware of what was happening with everything."

New elections for SAC, however, will be held May 13 and 14, and voting places and times will be clearly posted ahead of time.

In contrast to the SAC elections, SCC's first-ever elections went smoothly, according to ASG Vice

President Anne Downen.

"Considering that this is our first election, and that SCC is primarily a commuter campus, we had a very good turn out," Downen said, "About 125 students participated."

President and vice president positions were filled, as well as 9 out of 10 senate positions.

Downen attributed the successful voter turnout to publicity and heightened student awareness.

"Fortunately, ASG is starting to peak students' interest at SCC," she explained, "This means more of our own candidates and participation overall."

Today, campaigning for SAC elections will begin for next week's elections. Students can vote in front of the fountain from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.



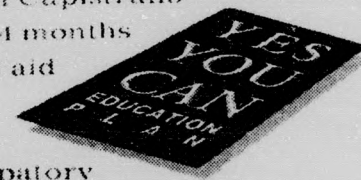
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Campus celebration a success

FESTIVITIES: Despite the rain, many students attended SAC's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Staff Writer

Food, festivities and pouring rain marked Santa Ana College's Cinco de Mayo celebration on Tuesday.

About 150 people attended the event, hosted by Ruben Martinez, owner of the Martinez Bookstore in Santa Ana.

Sponsored by Associated Student Government and campus clubs, the celebration promoted pride in the Mexican culture, and the historic "Batalla de Puebla."

In an attempt to educate the audience on the meaning of Cinco de Mayo, student Jerry Rodriguez took to the stage to explain Cinco de Mayo's historical significance and read some of his own poetry.

The '40s-inspired fashion show was a highlight of the day, in-



Tom Street / el Don

Students dressed in '40s style clothes for the fashion show. cluding both women's clothing from the period, and zoot suits for the men.

Although Reina Estrella, advisor of the Latino/a Leadership club, thought the show was a success, she said it would have been more elaborate if not for the dreary weather.

"It was really disappointing," she said. "The students had been practicing hard all week in the amphitheater and in the end, we were squeezed under the awning. It would have been even better if we had more room."

Martinez's poetry, in particular, Please see FIESTA, Page 5

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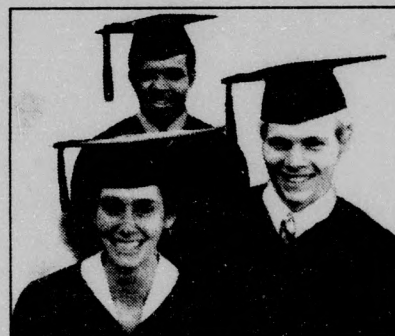
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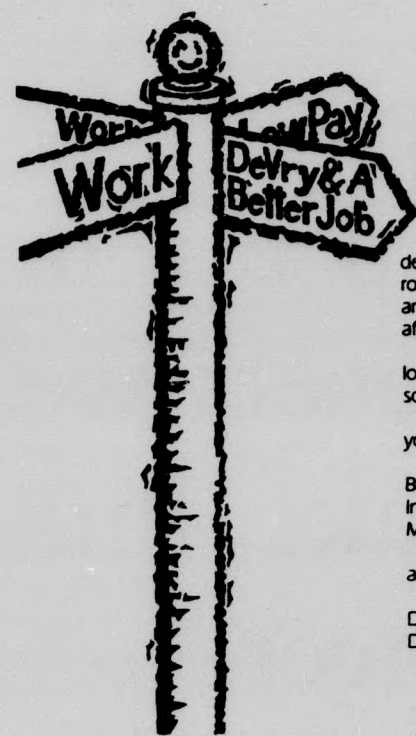
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Health:

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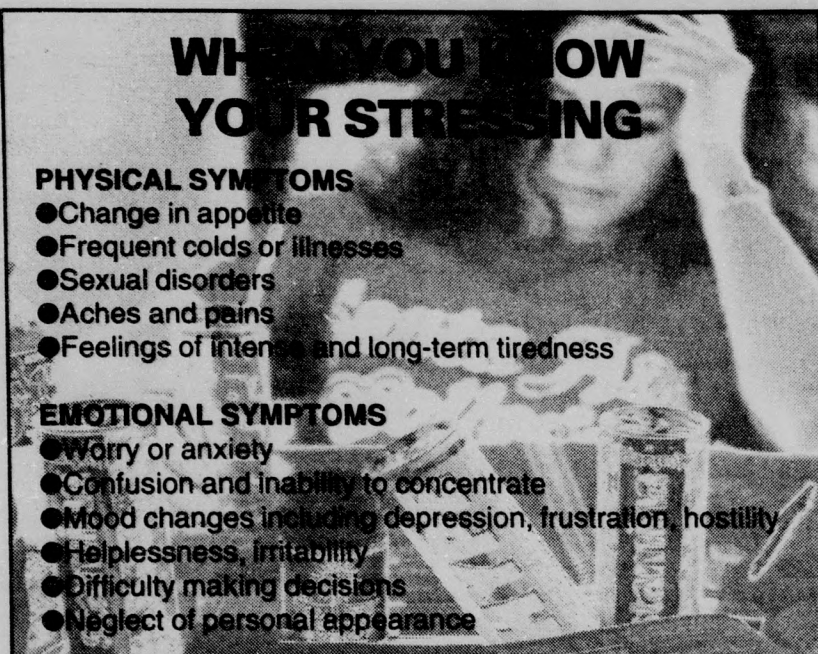
Unrealistic expectations and oversized workloads often create high levels of stress for students. Such levels have negative effects on physical and mental performance.

According to the American Institute of Stress, 70 to 90 percent of visits to primary care physicians are for stress related problems.

Long term physical symptoms of stress occur after the body has been exposed to adrenaline for a long period of time.

This diverts resources to the muscles from areas of the body that carry out basic maintenance. Eventually, a person's health begins to deteriorate, resulting in illness, intense fatigue, headaches and digestive problems.

Emotional or internal stress symptoms include anxiety, con-



WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR STRESSING

PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

- Change in appetite
- Frequent colds or illnesses
- Sexual disorders
- Aches and pains
- Feelings of intense and long-term tiredness

EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS

- Worry or anxiety
- Confusion and inability to concentrate
- Mood changes including depression, frustration, hostility
- Helplessness, irritability
- Difficulty making decisions
- Neglect of personal appearance

fusion, feeling overwhelmed, impatience and restlessness.

It is common for people to allow themselves to be pushed to a level where work, physical and mental health begin to suffer, according to the American Institute of Stress.

To successfully manage stress

levels and fatigue, which allows the brain and body to function normally, is the ultimate goal.

"Most people who are troubled don't buy into the belief that by actions on your part, change can happen," Earl said.

Giving the students, faculty and others on campus the tools to

70 to 90 percent of visits to primary care physicians are for stress related problems.

-The American Institute of Stress

manage stress levels is one job of the Crisis Intervention Team.

Key elements in stress management include relaxation, talking to someone, accepting limitations, and getting enough rest.

Earl's job, along with other counselors, interns, faculty and staff volunteers, is to help students maintain a "calm body and a clear mind" and she sees stress management as just another form of education.

Many students have financial problems, social issues, families and want an education on top of that but students have to make priorities.

"People may have to choose between work and school," she said, "and learn how to take a break."

Fiesta:

continued from page 4

added to the festivities by bringing positive messages to all present, said student Raul Blanco.

"His poems were impressive," he said. "I remember the theme of one, urged the audience to love their culture, because only by embracing our culture can we begin to love others."

Student Claudio Gallegos said the event was interesting, because it gave all races an opportunity to experience the Mexican culture.

"I think the activities really brought out the richness in our Mexican heritage," he said, "by sharing cultures with other races, I feel we can start to relate better with each other."

Stress:

continued from page 1

"This is the most stressful time of year for me," said Andy Hoang, 23. "I have graduation ahead of me, if I even pass my finals. Then after graduation is over, it's like entering a whole new world. I have to worry about finding a job, finally moving out of my mom's house. Basically, all these adult responsibilities are finally coming to a head."

During this life changing time, many students share Andy's feelings.

The stress of these new responsibilities, can take their toll on the worrier.

"After two nights of staying up late to study, my body is on a weird time schedule. I'll be so accustomed to staying up all hours that even when I don't have to I'll be up until two or three in the morning," said Andy. "I'll lay down to go to sleep and my mind will start racing. I can't stop thinking about all of the things I have to do in the morning or all of the things I didn't do during the day. It's really awful."

Excess stress not only effects the mental health of a person but the lack of sleep can also have serious physical ramifications.

"When I'm really stressing out, my stomach ties itself up in knots," said Andy. "Sometimes I'll be too tired to eat. Food just doesn't appeal to me anymore."

To relax and de-stress Andy calls his night owl friends or listens to music.

"The only time lately when I don't feel anxious is when I'm driving or working out at the gym," he said. "Just the two hours I'm there helps me make it through the rest of the day. For that short time I'm concentrating completely on me and not on school."

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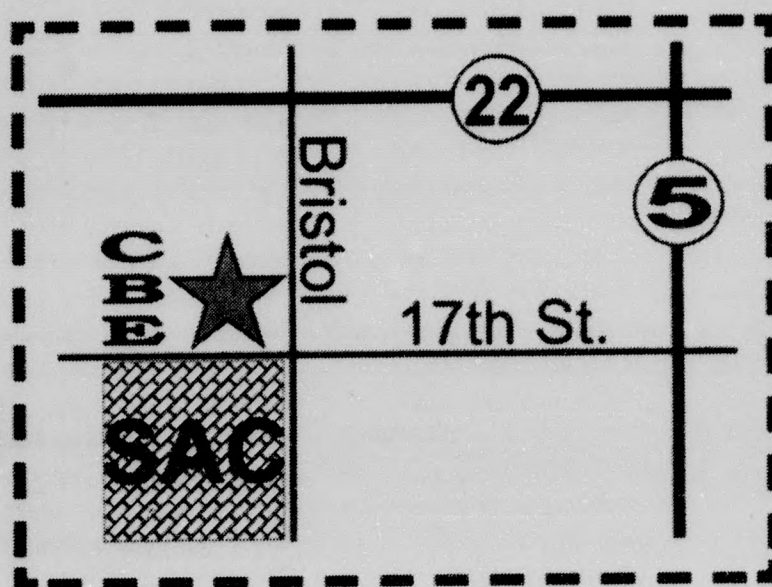
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Misery Loves Uma

Uma Thurman tackles Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, motherhood and marriage

By Ian Spelling Special to the el Don

Uma Thurman looks like hell. Actually, six months deep into her pregnancy, Thurman seems tired but radiant. It's the doomed Fantine, Thurman's character in the new, non-musical version of *Les Misérables*, in which Thurman appears ever so ravaged. The actress, who went to-die-for glamorous in another period piece, "Dangerous Liaisons," welcomed the opportunity to muss up her hair, sport no makeup and display some serious bags under her eyes.

"The part and what happens to her is all equally interesting," Thurman, in atypically talkative fashion, says during a conversation at a New York City hotel. "It's not about me or would I mind doing it. I don't even identify with that thought process. Some parts are more technical. Poison Ivy in *Batman & Robin*, for instance, was a heavily technical part in a weird way. In a very different looking way, so is dying of consumption."

Thurman giggles, but *Les Misérables* is no laughing matter. Director Bille August tackles the Hugo novel, condensing its countless pages into a two-hour movie set in 19th century France that focuses on Jean Valjean (Liam Neeson), the petty thief struggling to escape his past; Fantine, the single mother employed at Valjean's factory, with whom Valjean falls in love even as she fades away; Cosette (Claire Danes), Fantine's daughter, whom Valjean raises as if she were his own; and Javert (Geoffrey Rush), the relentless Inspector who forever chases Valjean, believing with all his soul that a man can never renounce his criminal ways.

Heading into the film, Thurman had only ever skimmed the novel. She'd also not viewed any previous big screen version or dropped in to see the Broadway musical. "I'm not a big musical fan," says



Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Uma Thurman plays the pitiful, poverty-stricken Fantine, in Columbia Pictures *Les Misérables*.

Thurman, who lives in Manhattan with Ethan Hawke, her husband and the father of their child. "I knew my Fantine song. I listened to it and enjoyed it. I actually enjoyed the music to 'Les Miz.' I'm a great audience member. I love everything. It's almost a joke among my friends, how indiscriminate I can be. But I don't often run off to see roadway musicals. I didn't think seeing 'Les Miz' was something that would help inform my work in this movie."

After production wrapped, Thurman read Hugo's tome. With both the book and screenplay rattling around in her head, the actress came to understand the story's enduring power and popularity. "It is, in a way, a societal indictment, and it's relevant today," she says. "I related to the themes and social injustice in the piece as a contemporary person. I was moved by the characters and their positions in life, and by their noble or ignoble

struggles to live their own lives."

Thurman then classic character hopped, as she segued from Fantine to the brilliant, ultra-sexy scientist Emma Peel in the upcoming silver screen version of *The Avengers*, based on the 1960s cult favorite TV series. Though the action-adventure also stars Ralph Fiennes as John Steed and Sean Connery in villain mode, all eyes will be on Thurman, who picks up where the inimitable Diana Rigg left off.

"What was interesting to me, what made Emma an interesting role model, in a way, was that she wasn't all about tossing her hair around, (cooing) words to you or doing all those vampy things," Thurman says. "She was very unself-conscious, bright, sprightly, extremely clean and not really a poser, certainly not in that sort of female sexual representation so many people associate with the character. She doesn't play up her sexuality at all. She's

totally unaware of it. She's absolutely down to business. 'Oh, what's the next thing to do, Steed?' I loved that aspect. For my interpretation, that's one of the things I wanted to carry over from the show into the movie. She's very much like a Girl Scout ... with a leather outfit."

At all costs, Thurman sought to avoid impersonating the much-beloved Rigg. "You can't echo what she did because her own natural personality was clearly what made Emma Peel so dynamic. I couldn't try to impersonate Diana Rigg's natural charisma. That would've been really pathetic," she says. "I think, in a lot of ways, if people compare us, they won't be happy with me as Emma Peel because they'll be looking for Diana Rigg. What can you do? I knew that up front. You don't go into 'The Avengers' not knowing that. It's a similar character, but it's not a similar woman."

"Avengers" will mark Thurman's last film for a while, as she plans to take time off to be with Hawke and raise their child. When she returns to acting, it's unlikely but possible that it could be in something with Hawke. "I wouldn't rule it out," she says, smiling. "He's a nice guy."

Chances are, though, that Thurman will continue going from big film (*Batman & Robin*) to small film (*Pulp Fiction*), comedy (*The Truth About Cats and Dogs*) to drama (*Henry and June*). It's just not her style to repeat herself. "I only feel comfortable having a schizophrenic career so far," she says. "That's been expressed in my choices. I only feel comfortable after doing something if I run and do something that's totally opposite. On some level, there's a sense of wanting to avoid being pigeonholed. Maybe it's just reactionary, wanting to mix it up. I just need to keep it fresh and stay flexible, and not become frigid or spoiled too much."

Something new this spring

CAMPUS: As the semester comes to a close see what the SAC students have in store for your entertainment.

By Tara Fleig
el Don Style Editor

As the end of the semester rapidly approaches and you start pulling all-nighters studying for your finals, take a break to check out these great shows the students here at Santa Ana College have been working hard on all semester.

On Sat., May 9 at 3 p.m. the Santa Ana College Chamber Ensemble presents a variety of music for your listening

pleasure. This concert will feature another recent addition in course offerings. The Chamber Orchestra will debut under the baton of Brendan McBrien. Maestro, David Adele, will lead the Guitar Choir; and the Woodwind Choir, under the direction of David Lopez, will round out the program. Selections to be performed will include classics from Bach, Mozart, Rimsky-Korsakov, George Bizet and Henry Mancini.

The Santa Ana Choir and the new Chamber Choir conclude the inaugural season under the direction of Ethan Sperry on Sun., May 16 at 3 p.m. This concert will be a multi cultural extravaganza and features classics by Mendelssohn and

Faure and some Renaissance madrigals. Folk songs from countries around the world will also be presented including Mexico, Cameroon, China, Korea, Spain traditional American Spirituals and Gershwin.

These two concerts will be held in Phillips Hall at the SAC. General admission, \$3; students, staff, seniors and children, \$2.

On Sun., May 17 the Santiago Canyon College music department presents Benjamin Britten's *The World of the Spirit* and *Serenade to Music*. With Ralph Vaughan Williams and the California Master Chorale also including Dr. Larry K. Ball, conductor, Heather Calvete, soprano, Kristin

SAC Spring Arts Calendar



SAC Chamber Ensembles

Sat. May 9 at 3 p.m. in Phillips Hall

Santa Ana Choir and the Chamber Choir
Sun. May 16 at 3 p.m. in Phillips Hall

Benjamin Britten's *The World of Spirit* Sun.
May 17 at 4:30 and 8 p.m. at the Crystal Cathedral

Color Me Glamorous Fri. May 15 at 7 p.m. in Phillips Hall

Rothfuss, mezzo soprano, Robert MacNeil, tenor and Tod Fitzpatrick, baritone. Rich Capparella of KKGO-FM will narrate. Show times are at 4:30 and 8 p.m. at the Crystal Cathedral 12141 Lewis St Garden Grove. General admission, \$9; students, seniors, children and RSC staff, \$7. For General information call (714) 564-5662.

Finally the Santa Ana College fashion students would like to invite you to a *Color me glamorous* fashion show on Thurs., May 15 at 7 p.m. in Phillips Hall.

The show has a *Golden Days of Hollywood* theme and is being held to promote the Fashion and Merchandising Department at SAC. Exciting, fresh and sometimes outrageous new ideas in design will be presented for the enjoyment of the always appreciative sellout crowd.

As always, the best and brightest from local area high schools are invited to enter in a special segment of the show. The high school students compete for awards, right along with the SAC students. The dean of the fashion department will give a \$100 tuition to the winner of the high school competition. The fashion department has also received a \$1000 in donations.

"This show is all student driven and they have worked very hard to bring everyone a great show," said Karen Conrad FCS department chair.

SAC offers a fashion program to fit anyone.

Tickets will be available from FDM students for \$2.50 each or \$3 at the door or call the box office at (714) 564-5661 for more information.

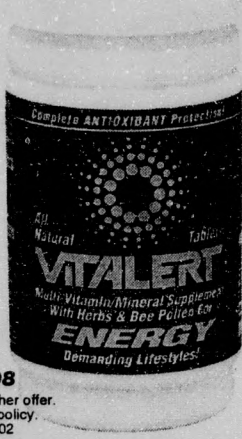
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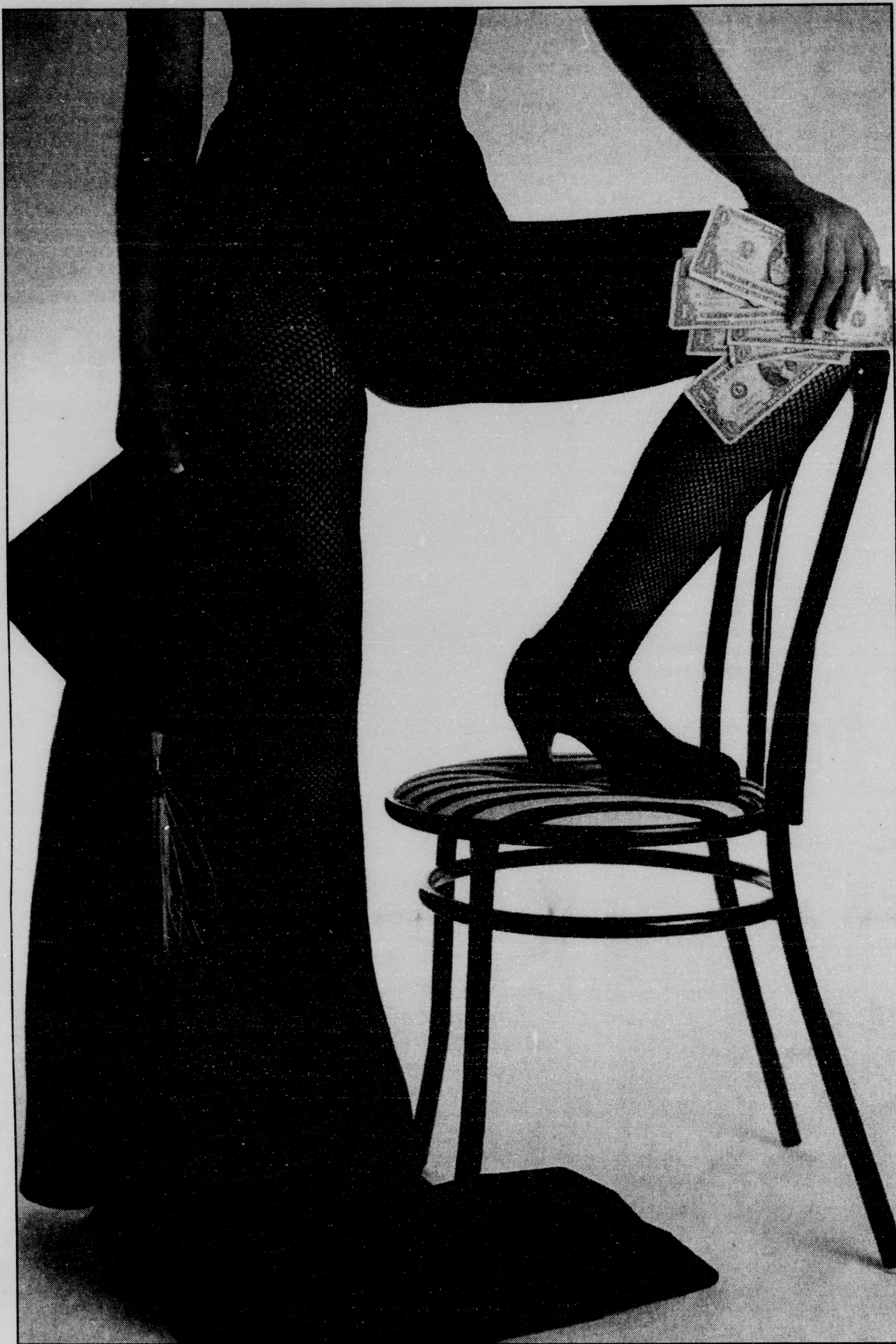
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Christina Georges / el Don

Working Girl

The lure of easy money entices student to strip

By Chiniqua L. Williams
el Don Staff Writer

The performers and the bouncers are the last to leave the club. The bouncers walk the girls to their cars and check the parking lot for stalkers before the dancers get in their cars. This handles immediate harassment, but can't protect the

dancers once they are on the streets. Alyssa has received calls at her house from a man breathing heavily requesting a private dance. She has also had vulgar notes left on her door step. She leans back a little more relaxed than before. "Not many people knew what I was doing so for a while, I was paranoid, but that

comes with the job."

During an outing to a topless bar with Alyssa and her girlfriend, she explained that the money topless dancers make is mediocre and not worth the trouble. "My club has the best looking women and we get paid way more. These girls have to hustle just to make \$500 a night. If I bring home

\$500, it was a bad night. They practically have to beg." On a good night, nude exotics can make \$1000 for six hours of work.

Though the money is better being a nude dancer, all strippers are

Please see STRIP, Page 9

■ **Part II in a series.** *Note the names have been changed to protect students involved.

Strip:

continued from page 8

not in the business to make the most money. Cassie an exotic who used to work with Alyssa now works as a topless dancer. She says, "Yeah, the pay is less but there is less groping and shit to deal with, and that's what I'm more concerned about." Topless bar customers can only put money in the girls' g-strings when the girls hold their strings out. No touching is allowed. "I feel safer going home when the night is over," Cassie adds.

The atmospheres of the strip clubs and topless bars are different as night and day. Since alcohol is served at the topless bars, many of the customers are more jovial than the patrons at the strip clubs. Even the waitresses and dancers interact more with the customers.

A dancer approached our table after her performance and

started a conversation. "Hey girls, having fun?" she asked, "Glad to see you here, I love girls, I hate dicks." Glancing at Alyssa and her girlfriend who are snuggled up in the crook of the booth, the dancer says, "You two are cute together, can I see you kiss?"

At strip clubs, the waitresses are barely seen. They ask for food and drink orders and let the patrons enjoy the performances. There are more girls in the topless bars; groups of girls, and girls with their guys.

Abby, a female patron sits next to us. "I don't tip the girls," she answers, when I say I'm doing a story on Alyssa and strippers. "I've dated a couple of strippers and I know how they look at their customers. They're mostly disgusted by them."

She takes a swig of beer and smiles, "I'm here cause I like the atmosphere. I like to come and chill with friends. Drink, smoke, listen to music and look

over and sometimes see a naked woman." She continues, "I don't look at them like men do. I don't stare. They aren't what I dream of taking home to f---."

But even "Abby" can be persuaded to tip. She sees a short but curvaceous Latin stripper in a short platinum dress take her place on stage. She sits back with a smile on her face and turns to ask me to go with her to the stage so that she could put a five in the salsa dancing stripper's g-string.

As we exit the club, Alyssa comments to the bouncer at the door that the club where she works is better. "If you like showing your vagina," he replies, "when you get some class you can come work here."

Aside from occasional weirdos that come into the club, stripping is a good temporary job for those who like the fast money. The problem is, once finances are in order, other aspects in the dancers' lives are affected. Holidays with the

family can be cut short. The club is always open, even on Christmas, and there is always someone there, dancers and patrons alike. "This past Christmas I worked and there were four guys in the club all night," she says. "You want to make money, but you feel sorry for them. It's like go home to your family loser."

Intimate relationships have also changed since Alyssa started dancing. "I've seen a totally different side of men and it makes me never want to get married," she pauses and smiles, "at least not to a man."

As far as sex, most of the dancers agree that since they've started dancing, it takes a lot for them to get aroused with their significant others. "The whole sex, love, 'do you think I'm sexy', thing, is so old," says one stripper. "Instead, I'd rather curl up with hot chocolate, my cats, and a good book."

Most of the male patrons are

Alyssa makes close to \$95,000 a year and if she needs to pay an extra bill, she just goes into work for a couple of hours. "I have an accountant who writes me down as a model so I don't have to claim as much ...

married, and according to Alyssa these are the ones who try the most with the women. "They try to put their fingers in any and every hole, and they say even worse things." Some of the married men have been known to refuse private dances, not because of morals, but because the dancers sometimes wear perfume. "Some of the bastards think they're slick by bringing changes of clothes."

Those men who are not married are sometimes mesmerized by the women to the point of proposing marriage and fairy tale lifestyles. "The best thing for the strippers to do is to ignore it all." A pained look comes over her face as she continues. "A lot of what they say is tempting, especially when they talk about taking you away from it all. You can't trust them. They're not all dogs, but enough of them are."

Alyssa has learned that strippers cannot get too mentally into the job. Her advice is to just think of it as a job. "You can have a good time, but don't get hot like they get hot," she says, "in other words, don't be cumming with the customers."

Several girls have gotten caught in the private dance room performing oral sex and letting the customers touch them. One of the strippers dumped her man for a regular at the club because he said he would treat her better, he ended up beating her. "You can never be too cautious, even when you're not dating them."

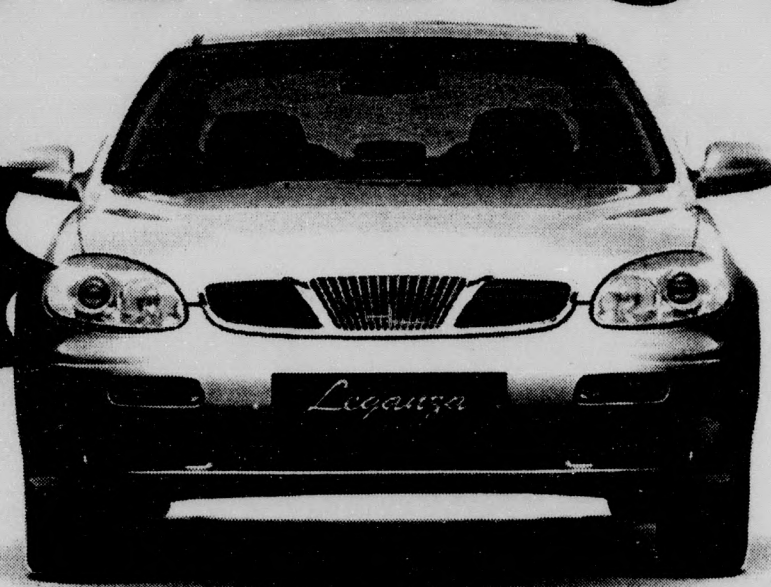
Alyssa makes close to \$95,000 a year and if she needs to pay an extra bill, she just goes into work for a couple of hours. "I have an accountant who writes me down as a model so I don't have to claim as much as I make and I write off my clothes and my make-up."

She tells of dancers that use the money to buy houses, and put their kids in private schools. "I was going to stop when my money and bills got right, but we live good, and the money is addicting. There is a girl at the club who is going on her twentieth year. Where else can you work and take home nearly \$1,000 in cash at the end of every workday?"

Alyssa recently put half down on a new car but continues to put money aside for something big. When asked what? "I don't know," she replies with a smile, "but whatever it ends up being ... I've earned it."

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Is it news or is it pandering?

By Steve Ball
el Don Staff Writer

Last week's televised suicide of Daniel Jones, on a Los Angeles freeway, raises serious questions regarding the ethics of live-broadcast news.

In the aftermath a half-dozen news programming directors scrambled to either issue apologies, or to justify the decision to cover this type of story live. Supporters cite the public's need to know, and claim that such broadcasts serve the viewer's best interest. One program director spoke of the danger to the public, claiming that since Jones had a gun, he could have been a sniper.

Several so-called media experts compared last week's episode to the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassination of Bobby Kennedy and the Space-Shuttle Challenger disaster, all of which were broadcast on live television. These experts seem to have missed the point. The examples they used were events of historical significance. Jones' suicide was nothing more than narrated voyeurism.

Most news organizations have strict policies on releasing the names of accident victims until relatives can be notified. In most cases suicides are also not reported, unless a homicide or some other extreme circumstance is present. Daniel Jones' mother was not allowed this courtesy as she watched her son blow his brains out on live television.

The danger of continuing this type of coverage involves more than ratings and the potential to offend viewers. Not only do they risk traumatizing young viewers, whose cartoon programs are interrupted to see a man set himself on-fire, then blow his head off. They risk setting the precedent of providing a soap-box to any mental-case that wants his views aired, or desires to commit suicide before a live audience.

One solution is simple. The same technology that can keep a foulmouthed rock star from using the f-word at the Grammys can be used to avoid the same type of spectacle in the future ... the 10-second delay. This would allow a little more time to push the button and spare the public from seeing the kind of disturbing images some of us saw last week. A delay would not lessen the quality of the information, yet it would provide a safety buffer.

Some might ask: What difference does 10 seconds make? Well, it took less than 10 seconds for Daniel Jones to put a twelve-gauge to his head and pull the trigger. A few seconds might have spared the unknown number of children for whom, up until that point, the lowest part of their day was having their cartoon program interrupted.

AMERICAN SCHOOLCHILD



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Represent, not neglect

The associated student government, by all rights, should be playing an important role in representing the student body in matters that affect students. They are not.

Student elections have been postponed ... again. And the new constitution has yet to be implemented, even though it has been in process for over a year. We wonder why the ASG and their adviser have failed to execute their duties.

We think that the blame should be shared equally between the administration, the ASG students, including their adviser, and the student body as a whole.

The administrators are at fault because they have failed to adequately guide and support students involved in ASG.

The students and adviser for their failure to execute their duties as outlined in the by-laws.

And the student body for a complete lack of interest in student government.

At our sister college, Santiago Canyon, not only have they been able to organize and hold elections, they have also drafted and ratified a new constitution. All of this from a new college, in existence less than a year.

Last year an administrator, in defense of the two-college district, said, "students at the Santa Ana campus have urban needs, while students at the Orange campus have suburban needs." We think student representation serves

the needs of both.

In defense of those involved in student government, the sacrifices they make of their time should be commended, in addition to their regular classes they spend many hours on student matters. But if the ASG is unorganized and unproductive then this time is being wasted.

It is also difficult, given the short period of time they serve to be brought up to speed on the workings of student government. This is something the adviser should be held responsible for.

Postponement of elections, because some of those responsible for staffing the voting booths couldn't make it on time, is inexcusable. Those responsible should not be allowed to participate in student government in the future.

One solution for this would be to require students interested in ASG to take credit classes specifically designed for government leadership. There are already classes in the curriculum that are suited to this purpose.

For those in the present program, the experience won't be a complete waste of time if they choose to pursue a political career.

They will be practiced in real-world political skills such as, wasting constituent's money on travel to conferences with questionable value to those they serve. Being absent when critical votes are being cast. And a complete disregard for the needs of the people they serve.

Staff Editorial

The new constitution has yet to be implemented, even though it has been in process for over a year. We wonder why the ASG and their adviser have failed to execute their duties.

el Don Mailbox Policy

The el Don encourages expression of all views. Letters should be brief and to the point. All letters should include student ID number and may be edited for length and clarity. Letters to el Don may be delivered to room C-201, or mailed to SAC el Don, Mailbox, 17th at Bristol streets, Santa Ana, CA 92706. Include a phone number where you may be reached.

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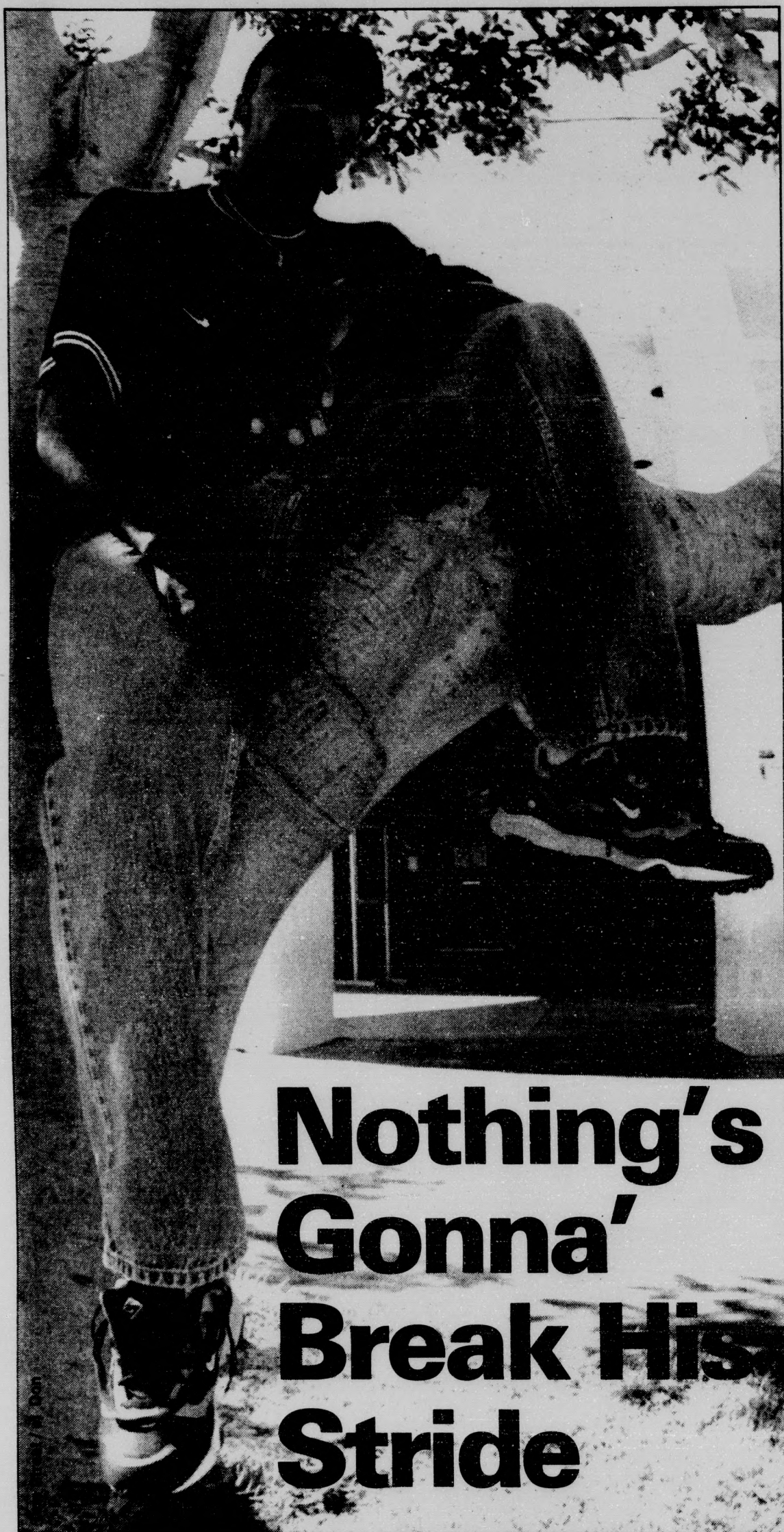


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Nothing's Gonna' Break His Stride

Track's Terrence Williams selected Athlete of the Year

By Dawnielle Peck
el Don Staff Writer

His motivation is simple. He loves the competition and he hates to lose. This, along with three hours of practice a day, a supportive family and good coaches has helped Terrence Williams obtain a personal best of 47.01 in the 400M and the prestigious award, the Orange Empire Conference male track athlete of the year.

The 19-year-old began his road to success in fourth grade when his teacher Mrs. Hall made her class run every recess to prepare them for an Olympics day the elementary school was having. This sparked an interest in Williams.

"It was fun running with the kids, yelling as I went," Williams recalls. "I started in long distance, the 10K and the 5,000. Then I took a few years off in junior high."

As a freshman at Orange High School, he played on the baseball team.

"I loved to play but I wasn't having fun," he explains. "People kept telling me I was fast. I had the most stolen bases as a freshman. Then the track coach talked to me. I had to make a decision between baseball and track."

Williams prefers individual sports like track over baseball and football.

"I can't get mad at anyone else. If I mess up, it's all me."

Running all four years on the varsity track team in high school, Williams became Century League's athlete of the year in 1996. Unfortunately, he wasn't as focused in the classroom as on the field.

"I was getting B-minuses and C-pluses," he recalls. Yet this didn't discourage him. This semester Williams is enrolled in 20 units, works on campus in the admissions office and is maintaining a 3.38 grade point average.

"It was hard this semester because I've never had to do so much," he said. He admits his girlfriend helps him stay focused in his studies. His family has also helped support him, not just through this semester, but throughout his whole life.

"My mom and dad are behind me 100 percent. They go to every meet," he says fondly. "When I used to play baseball, the coach didn't play me but my parents still went to the games."

Of his two little sisters, one also runs track. "She's fast for a 9-year-old. I'll train her when I'm done with what I'm doing," he said. But if he keeps going the way he is, Williams probably won't be "done" for a while.

He hopes to transfer to USC in the fall where he wants to continue to run the 400M, major in public administration to become an elementary school principal, and prepare to go to the Olympics in 2000.

Williams wants to be a principal because he has seen a lot of his friends from high school put their talent to waste.

"I want to teach little kids how to be somebody," he said.

For right now, his goal is to win state finals and to attend USC in the fall. He just keeps on telling himself, "If I can get through this, I can go to USC."

TRACKING TERRENCE



FAVORITES

MOVIE-The Usual Suspects
FOOD-African and his girlfriend's cooking
BOOK-Slaying the Dragon
MUSIC-R&B
GROUP-LSG
PAST TIME-Going to clubs such as Shock the World and Rock the Spot, Using the Sony Play Station.

Dedication pays off

GOLF:
Dick
Gorrie
wins
top
award.

Going to school and playing a sport takes a lot of hard work and dedication.

Coaches want to make sure their players not only do well in athletics, but academics as well.

Dick Gorrie is one of those, and in honor of his commitment to his students he was named Health Educator of the Year by Scope, a state committee for community colleges.

As SAC's golf coach for 15

years, Gorrie makes sure there is a time for golf and a time for study.

Golf is not the only hat he wears, Gorrie is also an assistant football coach for the Dons.

In his spare time, he relaxes by skiing and playing a good game of tennis.

DICK GORRIE
- Eileen Avaricio



DON REPORT

●FASTPITCH

Outfielder Kim Bentley was selected for the OEC second team.

First baseman Jessica Cisneros joined Bentley on the second team, while pitcher Erica Pilkington was named to the first team and was named OEC Co-Pitcher of the Year. She also made the All-Southern Cal team.

The Dons face off against Ventura Friday at Long Beach City College at 2 p.m.

●BASEBALL

Second baseman Cory Williams was selected as valedictorian and was



SAC Baseball

named to the Orange Empire Conference second team along with infielder Albert Rodgers, pitcher Shaun Wooley and utility player Chad Elliot.

Outfielder Rick Gonzalez was selected for the first team.

Sectionals begin Friday at SAC at 2 p.m.

●SCHOLARSHIPS

FOOTBALL

Kevin Cole.....Western Washington
Aaron Kenney.....Lenoir-Rhyne College
Tony Magliocco.....Eastern Illinois
Kody Miller.....Pittsburgh
Alex Pula.....Azusa Pac.
Sam Purcell.....Azusa Pac.
Tramel Robinson.....West Texas State
Ed Romo.....Chapman
Byron Schley.....Glenville
Sam Stremick.....Southern Methodist
Matt Welch.....USC